

HONORING ASSISTANT SHERIFF  
RICHARD BRESHEARS

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 1, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assistant Sheriff Richard Breshears for 35 years of dedicated service to Stanislaus County. Richard will retire from the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department and will be honored at an event held in California on June 23rd.

Richard began his career as a Stanislaus County Deputy Sheriff in 1970 where he worked in Patrol and Adult Detention. He was assigned to the Investigations Crimes Against Persons Unit in 1973. He was in this unit for almost 18 years, starting out as an investigator and moving up the ranks to Lieutenant. In 1991 Richard was promoted to Captain and served as Commander in both the Custodial Division and the Operations Division. In 1997 he was appointed to Assistant Sheriff and he currently commands the Operations Division.

Mr. Breshears graduated from the FBI National Academy in Virginia in 1982. He has also been a member of numerous law enforcement committees. He is an alumnus of Leadership Modesto, a training program for up and coming community leaders. Richard has served for a number of years as chair of the Law Enforcement Day. He is currently President of the Stanislaus County Police Activities League, a position he has held for 8 years, and he is a member of the Stanislaus County Advisory Board on Substance Abuse. Richard has served on the US Attorney's Eastern District Law Enforcement Executive Council for many years. In 1999 he received the Sheriff's Department "Medal of Merit" for exceptional meritorious service, the second highest award presented by the department.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Assistant Sheriff Richard Breshears upon his retirement from public service. Although his career in public service has ended, his contributions will be felt for generations to come. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Richard a fulfilling retirement.

IN VERMONT, FOOD FROM FAMILY  
FARMS IS GOOD BUSINESS

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 1, 2004*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize that two businessmen in Vermont, Steve Birge and Mark Curran, the owners of Black River Produce of Proctorsville, Vermont, were recently selected runners-up for the National Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Administration.

Twenty-five years ago Steve Birge began Black River Produce, today a \$27 million produce company, when he saw the poor quality of the produce used in the local restaurant in which he worked. Black River originally delivered fresh, local produce to local restaurants in the Proctorsville area of central Vermont. But after he met Mark Curran (while

hitchhiking!), the two expanded the company, working with local farmers so that they could supply restaurants with the freshest and most healthful produce available. Today, Black River delivers high-quality produce not only throughout Vermont, but also into parts of western New Hampshire, northern Massachusetts, and eastern New York. It supplies not just restaurants, but grocery stores, schools, hospitals, ski areas, and nursing homes.

Black River Produce has sales of more than \$27 million a year, a work force of 100 employees, and a fleet of 30 refrigerated trucks and two tractor trailers.

I salute Black River Produce's commitment to providing its customers with the highest quality foods. The company distributes high-quality Vermont foods, supporting not only local farmers, but other small businesses such as Grafton Cheese, Cold Valley apples, and products from Vermont Butter and Cheese. They are an integral part of the Vermont Fresh Network, which links local farms to local chefs.

Although during out-of-season periods (Vermont, after all, has long winters) Black River distributes produce from out of state, and although it buys fish in Boston, its commitment to local agriculture and local business is noteworthy. In a time when both agribusiness and outsourcing have wrought havoc with traditional American family farms and with American businesses, I salute the remarkable accomplishment of Black River Produce in supporting local access to locally produced foods. Steve Birge and Mark Curran, and their many employees, have shown businesses around the nation that distributing the products from family farms is and can be good business, and that profits can flow both from helping local businesses, and from providing consumers with healthful foods.

CONGRATULATIONS, ECO/SPRINGFIELD, LLC IN AGAWAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 1, 2004*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed privilege to note the exceptional achievement of eco/Springfield, LLC, Agawam, Massachusetts as the recipient of the highest honor bestowed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to small worksites, the approval as a Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) participant in the consultation program. Currently fewer than 750 worksites in the country share this honor of SHARP recognition.

SHARP is a program created to provide incentives and support to smaller business owners who meet and exceed the OSHA standards, eco/Springfield, LLC is a strong example of such a business. With the recognition in this OSHA consultation program comes several services at no additional cost to the business owner. These services include recognizing hazards in the workplace, providing a written report that summarizes the findings of this analysis, assisting in developing and maintaining an effective safety and health program, and offering training and education to the employer and employees at the worksite.

I am very proud of all my constituents in this workforce for their tremendous efforts in working with the Massachusetts Consultation Program to receive this honor. Once again, congratulations to all of the men and women who work hard each day at the eco/Springfield, LLC, in Agawam, Massachusetts.

RECOGNIZING NATHANIEL STITT  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 1, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathaniel Stitt, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 333, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathaniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities and earning numerous merit badges. He has held such leadership positions as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Nathaniel has also been on staff at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation for the past four years. For his Eagle Scout project, Nathaniel built drying racks for the Volunteer Fire Department at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathaniel Stitt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Torrey Stoffel-Gray, who was recently killed in action in Iraq.

Lance Cpl. Torrey Stoffel-Gray was a 19-year-old Marine from Patoka, Illinois. Patoka is a rural town in my district with a population around 630. At 16 he left Patoka to enter Lincoln Challenge, a military-style alternative school at Rantoul, Ill. Many friends and family say that Lincoln Challenge changed his life and helped him find his way. This young man was recently killed in action in Iraq when his convoy was struck by rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire in the Al Anbar Province. My condolences go out to his family and friends.

Lance Cpl. Stoffel-Gray is survived by his mother, Mary Stoffel, his stepfather Jerry Stoffel and his three brothers, Brandon, Russell, and Blake. Lance Cpl. Stoffel-Gray was awarded the Purple Heart, which was presented to his mother at the time of his burial. Not enough can be said about Lance Cpl. Stoffel-Gray and the rest of our brave men and women serving in Iraq. These soldiers are risking their lives every day to ensure our freedom here at home and for others throughout